



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Public Health

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July 16, 2008

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, MD, MPH
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF, HEALTH FACILITIES INSPECTION**

I am pleased to announce the appointment of James Lawson as the Chief of DPH Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID), effective July 21, 2008. HFID performs inspections on behalf of the State, and this appointment culminates a selection process with the State.

James Lee Lawson, RN, comes to us with more than three decades of experience in health care. Mr. Lawson began his career with the United States Naval Hospital Corps, and worked thereafter with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization and in private consulting. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Nursing, as well as another Bachelor's in Business and a MBA with an emphasis in Healthcare Finance and Administration. Mr. Lawson will play a critical role in strengthening HFID in order to advance our performance in meeting State and Federal inspection goals.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Ernest Pooleon, R.E.H.S., for his management of HFID as Acting Chief. In that capacity, Ernie managed and directed the operations along with all other responsibilities of the position. Ernie has a superb understanding of the existing laws and policies. We are indebted to him for his interim leadership and management of HFID. Public Health continues to look to him for his expertise and contributions.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Lawson to our County family and to Public Health. I ask that you provide support and cooperation to ensure a smooth transition into his new position.

JEF:cm

c: Sheila Shima
Richard Mason